

About CDC's Public Health Law Program

The Public Health Law Program leads the initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance the contribution law makes to the public's health at the community, state, national, and global levels.

*Our mission is to improve the health
of the public through law.*

Our strategic goals are to:

- Develop the legal preparedness of the public health system to address terrorism and other national public health priorities,
- Improve the understanding and use of law as a public health tool, and
- Build strong partnerships between public health practitioners, policy makers, and the legal, law enforcement, and emergency management communities.

The program focuses on creating and delivering practical legal tools, training materials, and authoritative information for public health policy makers and practitioners. To strengthen the science base, we direct a peer-reviewed, extramural program of research evaluating the impact of public health laws. In all our work, we partner closely with CDC colleagues and, extramurally, with public health policy makers and practitioners, elected officials, public health and healthcare attorneys, the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, emergency management professionals, researchers, educators, and many others committed to better public health.

CDC Public Health Law Program

4770 Buford Highway, Mail Stop K36, Atlanta, Georgia 30341
Phone: 770-488-2640 Fax: 770-488-2420 Email: PHLawProgram@cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/phlp



CDC PUBLIC HEALTH LAW PROGRAM

*“The People's Good is the Highest Law”
- Cicero*

“CDC is committed to building a public health system that is fully prepared to protect the health of the American people. A better understanding of public health law is crucial to ensuring state and local preparedness.”

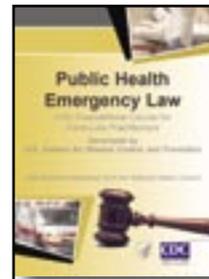
*Dr. Julie L. Gerberding
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

How Does Law Contribute to Public Health?

Law is a traditional tool for preventing disease, injury, and disability. Law was critical to the dramatic public health advances of the 20th century. The success of childhood immunization, seat belts and bicycle helmets, smoking prevention, drinking water protection, occupational safety programs, and many other public health interventions hinges significantly on appropriate application of law and legal tools.

Law already is making important contributions to the public's health in the 21st century. Tobacco, poor diet and physical inactivity, alcohol, infectious diseases, and motor vehicle injuries are among the greatest underlying causes of preventable disease and premature death for Americans. Working in concert with other interventions, law can be an effective tool to attack these problems, to address such emerging threats as terrorism and pandemic influenza, and to take full advantage of scientific breakthroughs in genomics and other fields with new potential for public health benefits.

CDC's Public Health Law Program develops and provides products that public health practitioners and policy makers, as well as their partners in many fields, can use to apply law to the public health priorities of their communities.

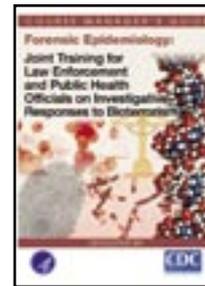


Public Health Emergency Law

To develop a practical grounding in the laws supporting effective response to public health emergencies, this new course for frontline public health and emergency management professionals clarifies the relevant state and federal legal powers and also includes a simulated emergency case study.

Forensic Epidemiology

A one- or two-day course in joint investigative techniques for public health and law enforcement professionals when responding to a suspected or confirmed bioterrorist attack; developed in partnership with public health professional associations, the U.S. Department of Justice, and state and local law enforcement organizations.



Community Public Health Legal Preparedness

This initiative gives healthcare attorneys insight into the legal framework for response to public health emergencies by hospitals and other healthcare providers. Strategically, it fosters partnerships between healthcare attorneys and public health attorneys across the full range of their practice.



The Public Health Legal Preparedness Clearinghouse

This web-based resource holds an expanding collection of state, local, and federal public health laws, executive orders, rulings, and related legal documents for ready access by policy makers and practitioners. Special emphasis is on public health emergency law. Also included is a directory to the legal counsel to all state public health departments.



Public Health Law Program: Selected Products

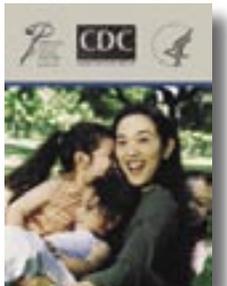


The CDC Public Health Law News

A free, weekly digest of current, worldwide news stories, court opinions, and announcements related to public health law and legislation – sent by e-mail to 5,000+ readers in every U.S. state and in dozens of other countries.

The Public's Health and the Law in the 21st Century

An annual conference series spotlighting high-priority public health legal issues, innovations and best practices. Participants include elected officials, health professionals, attorneys, judges, law enforcement and emergency management officials, researchers, educators, and many others.



Law for Chronic Disease Prevention

Frameworks have been developed to aid policy makers in using law to support prevention of obesity and cardiovascular disease – with applicability to chronic diseases generally. The frameworks illuminate the potential role of laws that inform consumers, regulate, provide incentives, or take other approaches to preventing chronic disease.

Law in Public Health Practice

This 20-chapter volume – for public health practitioners, attorneys, healthcare providers, educators and students – reviews the legal basis for public health practice and analyzes the role of law in such priority areas as bioterrorism, tobacco control, and genomics. (Pub. by Oxford University Press)

